

## **Section X.X.X Animal Welfare, Chapter X.X.1, Introduction to the Guidelines for Animal Welfare**

The United States supports the efforts of the Working Group on Animal Welfare and commends the work done so far by the various Ad hoc groups. Regarding any comments we may have on Section X.X.X, we are recommending only some minor changes to the text under Article x.x.2.

### **Article x.x.2:**

With a view to making this article read more clearly, the following text is recommended for the English version:

#### **Scientific basis for guidelines**

- 1) Welfare is a broad term which describes how well individuals are coping with their environment, and includes their health, their feelings and other positive and negative effects on brain and body functions for dealing with stresses
- 2) Welfare can be scientifically evaluated and can be shown to range from very good to very poor. The study of how to assess animal welfare has progressed rapidly in recent years and evidence from such studies has been used in the formulation of these guidelines.
- 3) Some studies on animal welfare involve assessing the extent of stress, which occurs when animals are not able to cope with the consequences resulting from the treatment by humans or other impacts on the animal's environment.
- 4) Other areas of animal welfare research provide further information about the needs of animals by measuring the strengths of their positive and negative preferences. Once the needs of animals are identified, conditions and treatment methods which fulfil these needs can be developed and applied.
- 5) Some measures of poor welfare involve assessing the extent of pain or impaired functioning associated with injury or disease. Many problems can be identified by inspecting the animal.
- 6) Many measurements of animal welfare can be used as performance indicators in the evaluation of general methods for the keeping and treatment of animals and the actions of individuals who have an impact on those animals. Using such evidence, the adequacy of systems and of human performance can be evaluated

**Comment:** May need to identify such performance indicators (health status, production parameters, etc)

Article x.x.x.3.

#### **Ethical basis for guidelines**

Those who use animals have a basic obligation to ensure the well-being of such animals. Actions should be taken to minimise pain, anxiety and stress to the animals during their lives, and to maximise good welfare through the use of adequate housing and ethically accepted methods of treatment, inspection, training and management.